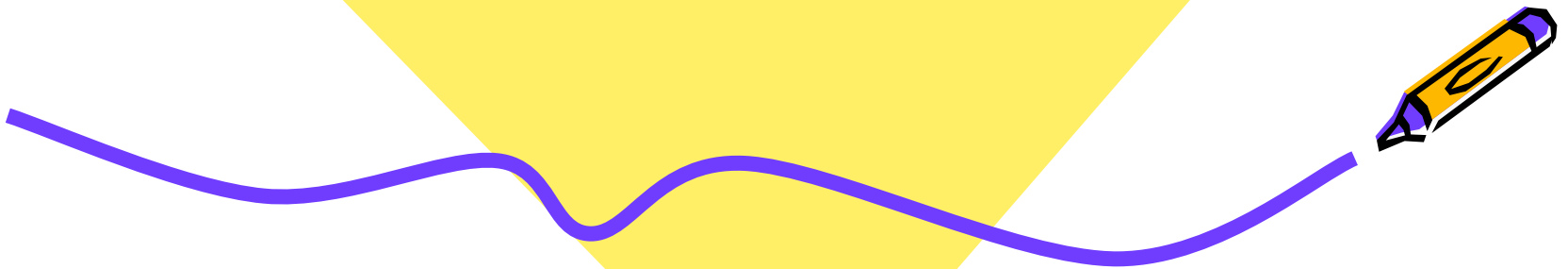




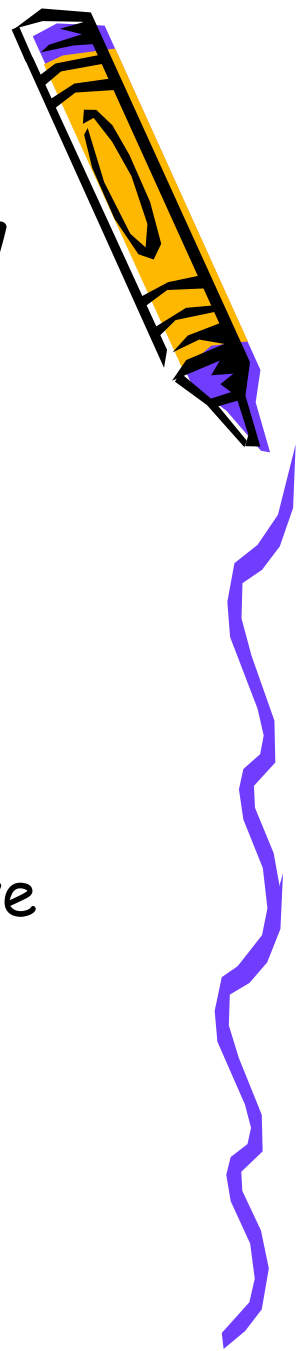
# Chapter Eleven: The Abused Child

Dr. Kristen Pennycuff Trent

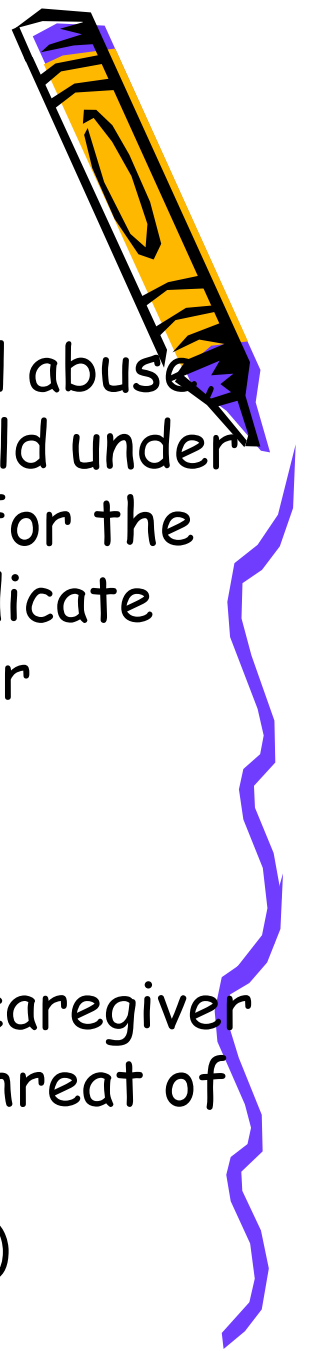


# Chapter 11 Overview

- What is Child Abuse?
- Responsibility to Report
- The School System and Child Abuse
- Reporting Maltreatment Cases
- Indications of Child Abuse
- Characteristics and Risk Factors of Abusive Parents
- Why is there Abuse?
- Development of Policies
- Programs to Prevent Abuse



# What is Child Abuse?



- Abuse - "The physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child under the age of 18 by a person who is responsible for the child's welfare under circumstances which indicate that the child's health or welfare is harmed or threatened thereby"

PL 93-247 (1977), p. 1826

- Maltreatment - "any acts or series of acts of commission or omission by a parent or other caregiver that results in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child."

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (2011)



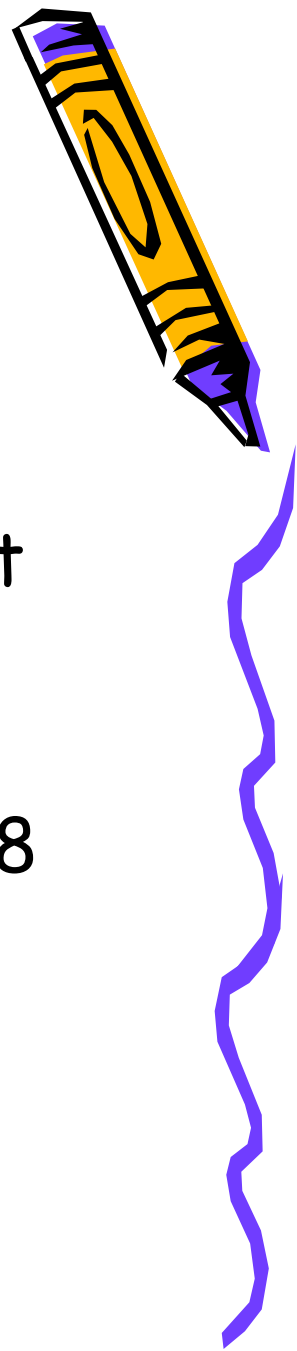
# Background



- 1874 - first case of abuse reported
- 1875 - NY Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children
- 1878 - American Humane Association (current name)
- 1909 - First White House Conference on Children
- 1920s - 1950s - X-ray research by doctors
- 1962 - The Battered-Child Syndrome article published
- By 1967 - All states had child abuse reporting legislation
- 1974 - National Center on Child Abuse & Neglect created



# Victims and Abusers

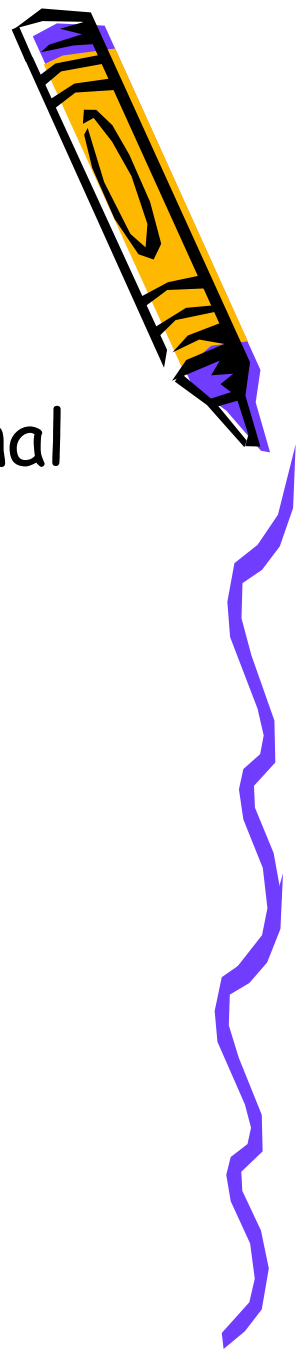


- Victims
  - Affects children at all ages, youngest seem more at risk
  - Neglect largest group, +70%, then physical abuse, +16% (USDHHS) 2008
- Abusers
  - +80% parents (USDHHS) 2008



# Child-Abuse Categories

- Neglect - physical, educational, emotional
- Physical abuse - shows signs of injury
- Shaken Baby Syndrome
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse



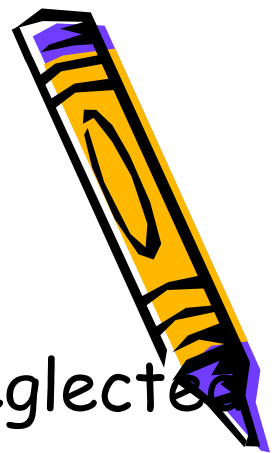
# Responsibility to Report



- State Laws require school personnel to report child abuse (including suspected)
  - Also those in medical, legal, and human services fields
- Childhelp
  - Provides National Child Abuse Hotline
    - US, territories, Canada 24/7, 170 languages
    - 3 million reported cases annually



# The School System & Child Abuse



- 70 percent of children who are abused/neglected may have contact with schools or child-care centers
- School's role in detecting and preventing child abuse is vital
- School must serve as defense against child abuse in three basic ways:
  - as a referral agency
  - as an educational institution



as a support system for families and collaborator with other agencies in providing a total protection system.



# Bullying and Violence in Schools



- Bullying - repeated, unprovoked, harmful actions by one child or children against another (Bullock, 2002, p. 130).
- Action steps to end violence:
  - Establish norms: differences are not put down but celebrated
  - Work toward creation of a civil society with more caring & respect
  - Improve children's relationships in all aspects of their lives
  - Include young people's views of how to end violence in violence prevention efforts
  - Increase violence prevention and youth development programs
- *Do not victimize the child*



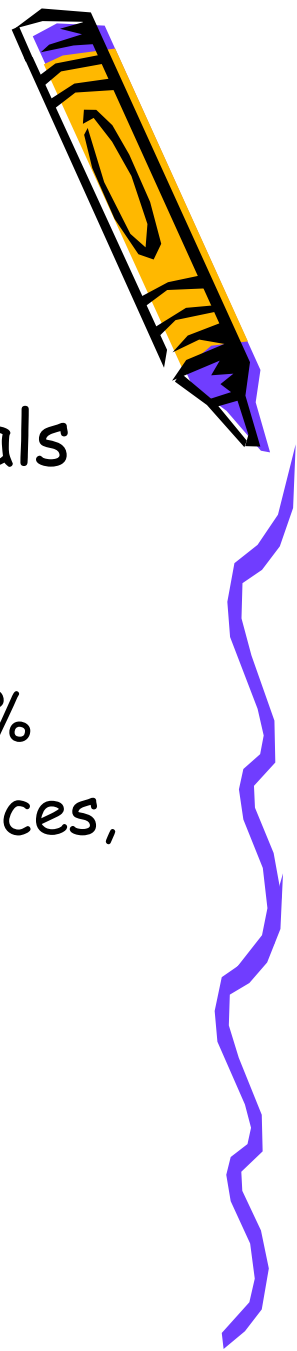
# Corporal Punishment in Schools



- Corporal Punishment is not prohibited in the US - only 29 states and District of Columbia have banned corporal punishment (2007)
- Parents can impact school culture to protect children from corporal punishment. They can:
  - Get a copy of school discipline code to determine policy.
  - Request, in writing, no physical punishment & have physician sign.
  - If child has a disability, ask to have a statement included in IEP that prohibits them from receiving corporal punishment.
  - If a child is injured, visit a physician, have pictures taken.
  - Make sure child doesn't feel to blame.
- Organize a ban in school district.



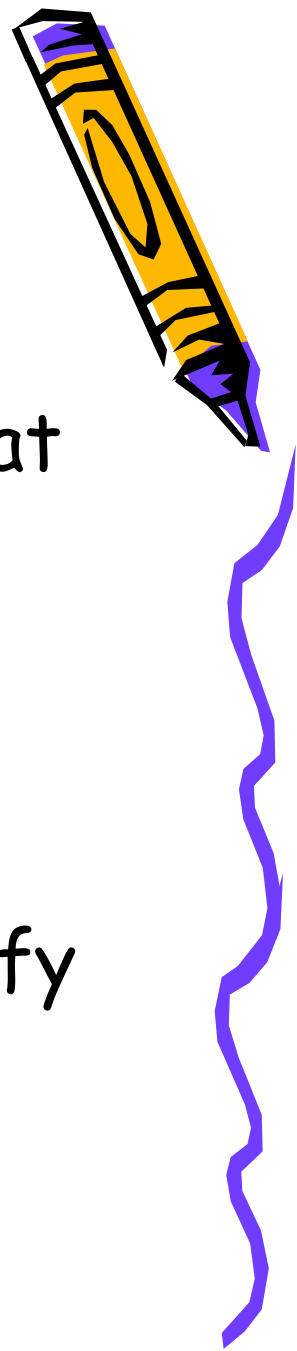
# Reporting Maltreatment Cases



- Cases are reported by both professionals and non-professionals
  - Professionals made 55.7% of reports
  - Friends and family members reported 19.6% (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2004).



# Indications of Child Abuse



- The indication of child abuse differ at different age levels
- Head Start, USDHHS, and the American Humane Society all have guidelines to help professional identify signs of child abuse



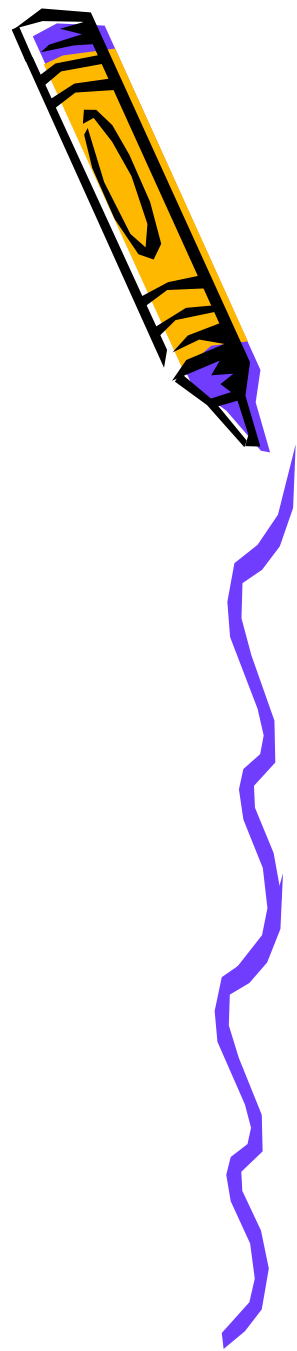
# Characteristics and Risk Factors of Abusive Parents



- Three approaches for understanding abuse parents
  - Psychological model - lack of empathy distinguishing factor
  - Sociological model - cultural attitudes, social stress, family size, and social isolation are factors
  - Parent-child interaction model - parents lack skill in interacting with their children



# Why is there Abuse?



- Children learn parenting patterns from their parents (Iverson & Segal, 1990).
- Abusive parenting may include the following:
  - Inappropriate expectations
  - Lack of empathy
  - Belief in physical punishment
  - Parent-child role reversal
  - Social isolation
  - Difficulty experiencing pleasure
  - Intergenerational ties



# Development of Policies



- All states require that suspected child abuse be reported.
  - Evidence of physical abuse must be reported immediately
- All Schools and centers need to have their own policies and training programs on how to deal with identifying suspected abuse and reporting it.



# Talking with Parents and Children

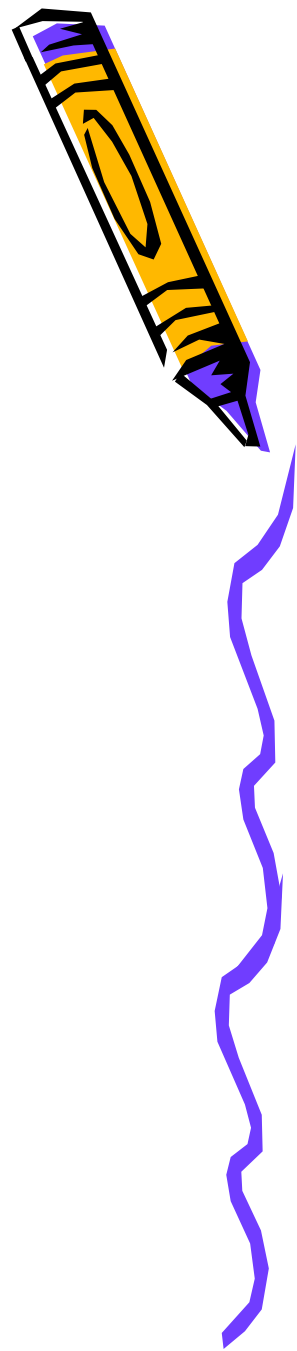


- Plan for a productive meeting with the goal of determining the family's needs and how the school can help
- Children should not be or feel threatened or pressured to talk
- Parents should be aware of school's legal reporting obligations





# Programs to Prevent Abuse



- Parent Education
- Caring Programs
- Support Offered by Schools
- Programs After Abuse is Recognized
- Parents Anonymous
- Community Help
- Preschool Settings

Checklist for Schools and Centers

Three yellow pencils with red erasers and sharpened tips, positioned diagonally in the bottom left corner.

# Your Turn

- Working with your group, create a public service announcement in which you talk about a type of abuse and provide local, state, and national resources that can be helpful for families.

